GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4405
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2007
TERRORIST THREAT IN ANDAMAN NICOBAR ISLANDS
Sidhu Shri Navjot Singh

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Andaman and Nicobar Islands are facing threats from terrorists, pirates and vested foreign agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to beef up the security of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a): No, Sir. Presence of terrorist outfits in Andaman and Nicobar islands have so far not come to notice. However, Andaman and Nicobar Islands face threat from poachers and illegal immigrants.

(b): There has been movement of foreign poachers in the Andaman Sea for fishing and plundering invaluable marine resources. Details showing the apprehension of foreign poachers (nationality wise) for the last five years is enclosed as Annexure.

During the year 2006, as many as 111 Bangladeshis were detected/apprehended in the UT, out of which 45 were fishermen who drifted to these islands in distress. 62 of those apprehended had entered into the UT with passport and tourist visa but without Restricted Area Permit in search of labour job.

(c): In order to regulate entry and stay for foreigners, Andaman and Nicobar Islands has been declared as Restricted Area vide Foreigners (Restricted Area) Order 1963. Restricted Area Permit is issued upto a period of 30 days for visit to only those places which are open for the purpose. The movements of foreigners are watched and surveillance kept by local Special and Foreigners Branch.

Tight security arrangements have been made at seaport and airport. The security of vital installations of these islands have also been strengthened to avoid any sabotage.